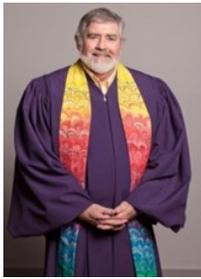


### Minister's Musings/ Message



*Happy New Year! Welcome 2016!*

Here we are in a new year. The debris of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Solstice gifts has been dispersed. The new toys, games, electronics, and other important adult stuff received as gifts has been well tested! We are beginning to collect the receipts and records of 2015 for the revenueurs. And we begin anew with a fresh slate (sort of) to see what we can accomplish to make the world a better place. We will elect a new President near the end of the year, so we can look forward (oh yeah!) to all the fun of the campaigns during most of the year! Hopefully

El Nino will continue to bring restorative rains through the winter and into the spring! And as a congregation, we have a new opportunity to look to our future, to think about what we could, should, and might be!

The world of 2016 is so much different than the world many of us experienced in our early years, but it is filled with every bit of opportunity and possibility of any previous year! How shall we proceed in this year, in our own endeavors, within our families, and as a congregation? There are challenges ahead, but we face them with the strength of this community we share. There are choices to be made, new efforts to consider, new ideas to try, new commitments to make as we look to the future. Alone we each struggle to succeed, but together we can shape a better world. By our shared efforts, based in our community at 1<sup>st</sup> UU Church, we can spread the love and hope of Unitarian Universalism to all whom we touch!

May this be a wonderful year in which we truly make a difference!

Rev. Bob

### Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

1/3/2016 Guest Speaker

1/10 Songs of Our Lives: Telling Our Stories, Singing Our Songs! Rev. Bob

1/17 Ages and Stages: I'm Too Damn Old for That: Aging! Rev. Bob

1/24 Ecologically Thinking: For the Earth Forever Turning! Rev. Bob

1/31 Journeys & Pathways: My Journey to the Institute for Culture & Creation Spirituality Rev B

### Emerson Coffee House Friday January 8th , at 7:00 P.M.

Emerson Coffeehouse welcomes back the ever-energetic Loki Rhythm on Friday, January 8 at 7 pm. Enjoy hearty appetizers and the enchanting music of Loki Rhythm. \$10 adults, \$5 students.

Loki Rhythm is a musical group that incorporates sounds from around the world. We are comprised of central valley musicians who appreciate the diversity of California. Our goal is to design music which includes the deep cultural history found in our own local communities. Our musical arrangements have evolved into unique compositions influenced by Hawaiian, West African, Caribbean, Zydeco, Latin Jazz, Asian and Persian cultures. Our philosophy is that music should be fun, thoughtful and celebrate multiculturalism. We love to have the audience participate and be involved in the music. Our own originals include Brazilian Treetop, Alien Blues, Butano Groove, and more.

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## Food for Body and Soul!



*Mark your calendars for an after-church event vital to the health of 1<sup>st</sup> UU. Childcare will be provided.*

**What? Soups, Surveys, and Sharing**

**When? Sunday, January 24, 2016, 11:45-1:45.**

**Where? Jackson Hall**

**How? >First, nurture your body with a **souper lunch**. (Leslie Washington and Cindy Milford might be contacting you about contributing soup, bread, or beverage.)**

>Then help nourish the church's health by taking a **23-question survey** evaluating how 1<sup>st</sup> UU meets your needs in various aspects of church life. (This should take less than 15 minutes. Details about how to access this survey Jan. 15—Feb. 15 on-line and at church will be coming.)

>Finally, share your insights and opinions in **one of three focus groups** on these topics: Adult Education/Faith Development; Religious Education for Children; and Caring for Our Congregation.

**Who? >YOU!** By participating in these activities, you will be contributing to 1<sup>st</sup> UU's vibrancy and effectiveness while enjoying the fellowship of church friends.

> **The Committee On Ministry** will facilitate the action.  
(Alfred Blum, Greg Cottin-Rack, Greg Harper, Cindy Milford, and Leslie Washington)

## Praise and Complaints

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is establishing a procedure to improve communication and resolution of Praise and Complaints as they pertain to the overall ministry of the church. For some individuals and issues, direct conversation may be impossible. The Praise and Complaints process might be the next option. All submittals will be confidential.

A Praise and Complaints form is available on the church website or the secure box (see below). It may be emailed to the COM directly, mailed, or hand delivered to the church and dropped in the secure Praise and Complaints box on the wall near Nicole's office door in Jackson Hall.

Your form will be read and reviewed by the chair of the COM. The committee will then review the submission and decide on a course of action. Your identity will remain confidential, and a summary of the findings and action taken will be sent back to you.

We, the Committee on Ministry, hope to better serve members and the minister by facilitating communication among the congregation, the minister, and the staff.

**Book Group:** Will meet the last Wed of the month. For more information contact Herman Washington at [lhwash@comcast.net](mailto:lhwash@comcast.net).

January 27, 2016: **Everything I Never Told You** by Celeste Ng. Presenter is Carol Clark

February 24, 2016: **The Faraway Nearby** by Rebecca Solnit. Presenter is Sara Milnes

March 30, 2016: **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel** by Gabrielle Zevin. Presenter is Darrell Burns

## Religious Education News–

### Happy New Year First UU!!

I've officially been the Director of Religious Education for our congregation for one whole year. I am so grateful to be a part of this community and for all the love and support you have shown my family and me. This year I am taking on the responsibility of introducing a tradition Rev. Bob holds near and dear to his heart called "Illumination". It's a tradition started by the UU congregation in Little Rock, AK (Rev. Bob's former congregation) and is usually celebrated during the holiday season. However, the minister and I agree that the holiday season is just too busy a time to add another tradition to. And besides, celebrating at the beginning of the year will help us start our new year refocusing on our 7 UU principles and re-engaging our covenant to these values. Each Sunday service from January 3-February 14, there will be an opportunity to shine light on one UU principle for the community to meditate on for the rest of the week. We will finalize the celebration with an Illumination dinner on a date TBD. Thank you for all that you do First UU of Stockton and Happy New Year!

Rosalie Saucedo, DRE



### Director of Religious Education Office hours:

Sundays 8am-12:30pm or by appointment

### Volunteers and Training:

If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact the DRE in person, by email or by filling out one of the **RE Volunteer Interest cards** on the **RE board in Jackson Hall**. We need volunteers that are willing to commit to helping out in the cottage once a month.

Thank you for your patience as we further develop our youth RE program.

## The Alliance

The Alliance enjoyed their popular Christmas salad luncheon and program on December 9. Betsy Keithcart presented a delightful medley of music on her harp including some lovely Welsh songs. A short business meeting approved a donation of \$2000.00 to the church fund for new security doors. Profit from the ticket sales of the Alliance yearly raffle contributed toward the amount donated. The October raffle is the only fund raising event the Alliance promotes. Dues are \$35. per year and membership is open to any church member or friend. Our next meeting and program will be held at O'Connor Woods, April 13.

**Church Women United** will hold their annual February Tea on Thursday, February 11, at Calvary Presbyterian Church 2343 Country Club. The program and speaker will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Norris Palmer, Professor at St. Mary's College and Pastor at Mayfair Christian Church

There will be a recognition of attendance from all the different Stockton churches during the program. We have been well represented the past few years and encourage UU friends and members to attend. A monetary donation is not required however, the collection is given to several non profits in Stockton.

A delectable assortment of refreshments provided from the attending churches will follow the program in the large multi purpose gym just across from the sanctuary. The Alliance table will feature veggies, cheeses and assorted non sweet items. For more detailed information ask Jessie Springborn, 948-4059 or Janet Bonner, 946-0540 or any Alliance member.

## Social Justice/ Community Outreach

Happy New Year! Your Social Justice Committee is gearing up for a big year. We're meeting on **Sunday, January 10th** after church to continue our planning efforts. Everyone is welcome to join us!

In December we participated in the Peace and Justice Faire, selling fair trade chocolate and handmade items made by members of our congregation (see photos below). Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers and crafters - Sharon Marr, Jann Vernor-Howard, Janet Bonner and Jeri Bigbee, and thanks to everyone who supported our fun holiday sale (we totaled over \$450!). Our December social justice offering for the Minister's Discretionary Fund collected \$375.00. **Our next month's Social Justice Recipient will be Puentes.**

Our dedicated UU volunteer crew continues to help provide meals at St. Mary's Dining Hall each week. More volunteers are welcome, so contact Rosalie Saucedo ([rorsauceda@gmail.com](mailto:rorsauceda@gmail.com)) to join in!

There's lots of other exciting things coming up soon (mark your calendars) ...

- On Monday, **January 18th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm** we'll again be celebrating the MLK National Day of Service by volunteering at the **Boggs Tracts Community Farm** (466 S. Ventura Ave, Stockton). Join us in supporting this vital community organization! Meet at the church at 8:30 am if you'd like to ride together or you can just meet us at the Farm at 9:00 am. Please wear your First UU t-shirt (if you have one) and bring a hat, a water bottle and work gloves. For more information, contact Rosemary Atkinson ([rosymoonatk@comcast.net](mailto:rosymoonatk@comcast.net); 478-4380).

- On **February 25th**, we'll again be participating in the annual Rotary Read-in. This year we'll be providing readers and books for Van Buren School and Roosevelt School. We'll need at least **18 volunteers**, so please plan on participating. Contact Sharon Marr ([sharonleemarr@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonleemarr@yahoo.com); 576-2633) to sign up!

- The "Not One More" art exhibit will run for the entire month of March at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. The exhibit is sponsored by Draw It Out, which is affiliated with Cleveland School Remembers, an organization primarily composed of teachers and others who experienced the 1989 Stockton elementary school yard shooting. Admission is free, and guided tours are available. We hope to organize a tour for First UU Church members and friends. Contact Cindy Milford ([cindymilf@comcast.net](mailto:cindymilf@comcast.net); 477-5984) for more information.

Keep up the good work!

### UPDATE ON FIRST UU AND PACT

PACT (People and Congregations Together) has been busy during the fall, broadening its reach and planning for the future. Following large group meetings attended by many faith-based representatives, the board met recently to appoint new members and update its by-laws and plan for the future. Roy Childs now brings a UU presence to the board and has joined the immigration and health table, meeting recently with Ms. Jessica Obrera, a PICO trained organizer who heads that table. (For those who did not attend the UU Thursday session or Sunday service in which Tom Amato, PACT executive director, spoke, a "table" is a research/discussion/action group organized around a specific issue and is a key means for focusing pressures for social change.) During the December 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting several additional PACT friends visited with board members to share refreshments, discuss plans for the upcoming year, and express hopes for the future. UU Rosemary Atkinson attended and expressed an interest in the table on education. PACT intends active tables on education, immigration, violence and public safety, environmental justice and possibly homelessness during the upcoming year. It is anticipated that the table on the environment will include concerns with the Stockton general plan revision and Tom Amato hopes for active participation from UU members following the outcome of the recent UU social justice committee retreat in which that was tentatively established as a priority for this year. Tom is also quite interested in the social justice committee's interest in holding community issue forums. UU members interested in any of these topics are encouraged to contact PACT through Roy ([rchildspacific.edu](mailto:rchildspacific.edu)) or Tom directly at [tom.amato@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tom.amato@sbcglobal.net).

**UU THURSDAYS!**  
**at First Unitarian Universalist Church**

1/7 I'm thinking we might have a simple meal, sing a few songs and then share ideas of what programs we might like to see offered for UU Thursdays this Winter and Spring! Y'all Come!

1/14

1/21

1/28

We are continuing to develop and grow this program and are always looking for people to share additional program choices in a low pressure supportive setting! We are looking for volunteers to lead sessions. What would you like to share? Call Rev. Bob for more info.

**Typical Schedule:**

**6:00 p.m. Gather and share simple meal (not a potluck but volunteer cooks welcome to sign up)**

**6:45 p.m. Share Brief Worship Experience (led by Rev. Bob and/or volunteers)**

**7:00 p.m. Enjoy one of the Program Activities offered (done by 8 p.m.)**



**Treasurer's Report to the Church – January 2016**

I am happy to report that during the first part of December we received almost \$13,000 in pledge income and an additional \$10,000 plus in gifts for the repairs and upgrades to the church. Thank you all for your support of the work of the church. The year end financial reports should look much better.

During the first big rain in December we experienced several roof leaks that are being addressed. The door replacements should be done by year end. Security improvements are still underway. Much more needs to be done to this old building.

We have hired a new company to clean the church and this will impact our budget calculation in 2016 as they are more expensive than the previous company. They should also do a better job.

Respectfully submitted  
 Dave Hall, Treasurer

**1UUCS ADULT PROGRAMS FALL 2015-WINTER 2016**

**BOOK STUDIES TO BE FACILITATED BY REV. BOB KLEIN**

(There are sign-up sheets in Jackson Hall or you can contact the office or Rev. Bob.

Will be scheduled when 5 or more people sign up. )

**Available Day/Times: Sun 3 or 7/Weds 10, 1, 3, 7/Thurs 10/Friday 10**

**ISLAM, a Short History**, by Karen Armstrong, Modern Library 2007 (Available on Kindle)

**Starting in January Please sign up in Jackson Hall indicating choice of date and time: Sun 3 or 7/Weds 10, 1, 3, 7/Thurs 10/Friday 10**

**LOST CHRISTIANITIES: CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES AND THE BATTLES OVER AUTHENTICATION**: by Professor Bart D. Ehrman Video and Discussion course from The Great Courses. **Starting in January Please sign up in Jackson Hall indicating choice of date and time: Sun 3 or 7/Weds 10, 1, 3, 7/Thurs 10/Friday 10**

**CHANGE THE STORY, CHANGE THE FUTURE**: A Living Economy for a Living Earth, by David Korten, 2015 (available on Kindle)

**JESUS: UNCOVERING THE LIFE, TEACHINGS, AND RELEVANCE OF A RELIGIOUS REVOLUTIONARY**, by Marcus Borg, 2006 (available on Kindle, full revision of Borg's earlier work on Jesus)

**JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE**, by Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker, 2011 (available on Kindle)

**COMING BACK TO LIFE**: The Updated Guide to the Work that Reconnects, Joanna Macy and Molly Young Brown, 2014 (complete revision of earlier version, available on Kindle)

**Dream Group**, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor's method based on Carl Jung's understanding of Dreams. When 5 or more people express interest I will start a new group! (Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor: paper/kindle) Contact Rev. Bob for more info if interested.

**Covenant Groups**: We have re-started Covenant Groups! These groups usually gather in a member's home or at the church once a month for an extended check-in and a topical discussion. Each group of 5-10 persons drafts a covenant of commitment and behavior to be revisited whenever a new member joins including the commitment to keep sacred what is shared and to support members of the group. These are not therapy groups but they often become important opportunities for members of the congregation to get to know each other in deeper ways. Current groups are meeting Monday and Wednesday evenings once a month. We are also looking for facilitators to help start 1-2 new groups. If this sounds interesting to you, please let Rev. Bob or the office know!

**Men's Group**: Our Men's Group, includes time to talk with other men about Being a Man, and other issues, as well as activities depending on the interest of those interested. We usually meet on First Tuesdays 7-8:30 p.m. (next meeting: January 5th) Please contact Rev. Bob if you are interested!

# January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 Sunday Service 10:30 am Guest Speaker	4 Volunteer at St. Mary's Dinning Hall 10 am- 1 pm	5 Men's Group 7 pm- 8:30 pm	6	7 UU Thursdays 6:00 pm	8 Emerson Coffee House 7:00 pm	9
10 Sunday Service 10:30 am Songs of Our Lives: Telling Our Stories, Singing Our Songs Rev. Bob  Social Justice Meeting after church	11 Volunteer at St. Mary's Dinning Hall 10 am- 1 pm	12	13	14 UU Thursdays 6:00 pm	15	16
17 Sunday Service 10:30 am Ages and Stages: I'm too Damn Old for That: Again! Rev. Bob  Social Justice Sunday	18 Volunteer at St. Mary's Dinning Hall 10 am- 1 pm  Boggs Tracts Community Farm 9 am -1 pm	19	20	21 UU Thursdays 6:00 pm	22	23
24 Sunday Service 10:30 am Ecologically Thinking: For the Earth Forever Turn- ing! Rev. Bob  COM Soups, Surveys, and Sharing	25 Volunteer at St. Mary's Dinning Hall 10 am- 1 pm	26	27 Book Group 7 pm	28 UU Thursdays 6:00 pm	29	30
31 Sunday Service 10:30 am Journeys & Path- ways: My Journey to the Institute for Culture & Creation Spirituality Rev. Bob						

## Minister's Office Hours

**Minister's Office Hours:** During the main church year, Rev. Bob generally keeps walk-in hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. *Please call to be sure that he is in and available as occasional meetings, hospital visits, trips, and other appointments may need to be scheduled during these times. Rev. Bob is also available by appointment at other times.* Please **call or text his cell [209-684-6345](tel:209-684-6345) for appointments or emergencies.** Messages left on his cell will be checked at least daily. Feel free to e-mail [uurevbobk@gmail.com](mailto:uurevbobk@gmail.com)

## General Office Hours

Office Hours.....Mon. - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Mission of our church  
Is to nurture individual spiritual/ethical growth,  
to be inclusive of all people,  
and to be an active voice of conscience  
in the greater community.

### Minister

Rev. Robert Klein.....466-7743  
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### Director of Religious Education

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### Music Director

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